

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes (Subject to Approval at next Full Panel Meeting)**

**Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP)**

**Monday, May 20, 2019**

**Vernon Elementary School Cafeteria,  
381 Governor Hunt Road, Vernon, VT 05354  
Meeting Minutes**

**NDCAP Members Present:**

- **Chris Campany**, *Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC), Panel Chair*
- **Lissa Weinmann** (*Brattleboro*), *citizen appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore Tim Ashe, Panel Vice-Chair*
- **June Tierney**, *Commissioner of Public Service, ex officio (arrived late)*
- **Dr. Bill Irwin**, *Radiological and Toxicological Sciences Chief, designee for the Secretary of Human Services*
- **Emily Boedecker**, *Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, designee for the Secretary of Natural Resources (replacing ANR Deputy Secretary Peter Walke, effective April 22, 2019)*
- **Michael Root**, *representing the Town of Vernon, VT*
- **Bob Leach** (*Brattleboro*), *citizen appointee of Governor Phil Scott (appointed October 2018)*
- **Derrik Jordan** (*Putney*), *citizen appointee of House Speaker Mitzi Johnson*
- **Representative Sara Coffey** (*Guilford*), *citizen appointee of House Speaker Mitzi Johnson (appointed September 2018)*
- **Corey Daniels**, *Director of Decommissioning, Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee (VY)*
- **David Pearson**, *Vice-President and Regional Manager, NorthStar Group Services (VY representative appointed to NDCAP effective January 11, 2019)*

No NDCAP members were connected to the meeting via teleconference.

**The following NDCAP members were absent from the meeting:**

- **VT State Representative Laura Sibilia**, *member of the VT House Committee on Energy & Technology*
- **VT State Senator Mark MacDonald**, *member of the VT Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Energy*
- **Bob Gustafson**, *Assistant Planning Chief, Radiological Emergency Preparedness, New Hampshire Emergency Management and Homeland Security, representing the Towns of Chesterfield, Hinsdale, Richmond, Swanzey, and Winchester, NH, interim appointee of the NH Governor's Office*

- **MA State Representative Paul W. Mark** (*Peru, MA*), representing the Towns of Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick, Massachusetts, appointee of (former) MA Governor Deval Patrick

Four positions on the Panel are currently vacant.

Meeting called to order at 18:04 PM; a video recording of the meeting is available online at <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> and at <https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-ndcap-52219-mtg>.

#### **Welcome, Opening Remarks & Overview of Meeting Agenda:**

The Chair, Chris Company, gave an overview of the meeting agenda and welcomed members of the public and the other Panel members to the meeting. With 10 Panel members present at the start of the meeting (and later 11 in total), there was a quorum.

**Amendments to the Meeting Agenda:** No additions to the meeting agenda were discussed or made.

**Introduction of Panelists:** Panel members briefly introduced themselves. Commissioner Emily Boedecker noted that this was her first meeting since replacing Agency of Natural Resources Deputy Secretary Peter Walke on the Panel.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Draft meeting minutes for the Panel's January 31, 2019 meeting were reviewed. During this review, Panelist Sarah Coffey requested that future meeting minutes include summaries of responses to public questions or guidance as to where to find these responses. State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie noted that any answers provided for public questions were available from meeting video recordings. The Panel agreed that brief summary answers to public questions would be included in future meeting minutes.

The January 31, 2019 meeting minutes were approved without changes by yeas or nays with no nays or abstentions heard.

#### **State Evaluation of NorthStar Required Annual Report:**

Public Service Department (PSD) Special Counsel Allison Wannop, summarized the State's evaluation of NorthStar's annual report required by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in effect with the closing of Docket 8880 on January 11<sup>th</sup> of this year. The report described what has been completed and what is to be expected in the remaining decommissioning and site restoration work. All plans are progressing as expected and are currently on budget. The presentation slides for this evaluation are available at <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>

1 **State Agencies' VY Decommissioning Oversight Status Update: Public Service, Natural**  
2 **Resources, Health**

3 PSD Special Counsel Allison Wannop's presentation on NorthStar's annual report also included  
4 PSD's Decommissioning Oversight Status. PSD has selected an independent technical  
5 consultant to assist in decommissioning oversight. The consultant will be announced after  
6 contract finalization. PSD's website will include a new "VT Yankee Decommissioning" web  
7 page. PSD's existing NDCAP webpages will become part of this new webpage.  
8

9 Panelist Dr. Bill Irwin indicated that Vermont Department of Health had nothing to report at  
10 this time.  
11

12 Gerald Noyes of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) provided the  
13 Agency of Natural Resource's (ANR's) report. The types of non-radiological site sampling and  
14 conducted investigations were briefly described. The DEC and its hired technical consultant,  
15 ATC Group Services, are currently reviewing monitoring plans and post closure site restoration  
16 protocols specified in the MOU, as well as how to maintain an efficient exchange of information  
17 from the VY Yankee site. One current project is the asbestos abatement at the site cooling  
18 towers. ATC is reviewing the abatement procedures with assistance from Vermont Department  
19 of Health (VDH).  
20

21 PSD and DEC's presentation slides are available at  
22 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>.  
23 (PSD's slide presentation is combined with that for "State Evaluation of NorthStar Required  
24 Annual Report.")  
25

26 **NorthStar Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities:**

27 NorthStar Panelist Corey Daniels summarized decommissioning activities completed since  
28 January 2019. Of note, all spent fuel racks have been removed from the Spent Fuel Pool (SFP).  
29 The SFP has been fully drained. Refurbishment of the onsite rail spur is complete.  
30 Segmentation of the dry well head is complete. The Reactor Vessel Head (RVH) has been  
31 removed; preparations for segmenting the RVH are underway. The former Construction Office  
32 Building (immediately east of the Containment Access Building) has been demolished.  
33

34 NorthStar's presentation slides are available at  
35 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>.  
36

37 **Orano Presentation on Reactor Vessel Segmentation:**

38 Corey Daniels' Decommissioning Activities presentation included discussion on preparations  
39 underway for the upcoming reactor vessel segmentation work. (Sebastien Guillot of Orano was  
40 available to answer questions on this part of Corey's presentation.) The specialized tools that  
41 will be used for these activities were highlighted. The temporary radioactive waste storage  
42 used during this project were also described. While most of the resulting radioactive waste will  
43 be shipped via railcar for permanent disposal, the Greater Than Class C (GTCC) Low Level  
44 Radioactive Waste produced will be stored in a Holtec dry cask storage canister very similar to

1 those currently storing VY's spent nuclear fuel onsite. This cannister will be stored on one of  
2 VY's two Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) pads.

3  
4 The slides for this presentation are available are available at  
5 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> (as part of NorthStar's "Update on VY Site  
6 Decommissioning Activities" presentation).

7  
8 **PANEL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: On State, NorthStar and Orano Reports**

9 The Panelists had no questions.

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11 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: On State, NorthStar and Orano Reports**

12 The public had no questions.

13  
14 **ISSUES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE PANEL IN 2019:**

15 Chris Campany brought the Panel's attention to the *Summary of Items Selected for May 2019*  
16 *NDCAP Meeting Agenda* and *Potential Items for Future Meetings*, found on pages 5 and 6 of the  
17 April 22<sup>nd</sup> Issues Committee Meeting notes (available at  
18 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>). The committee meeting identified topics to  
19 be discussed in 2019 and beyond. The Panel consensus was that these were reasonable topics  
20 for consideration.

21  
22 Discussion turned to additional topics that the Panel may want to consider. Panel Vice-Chair  
23 Lissa Weinmann requested that the Congressional Delegation provide updates at each NDCAP  
24 meeting about potential changes in US nuclear waste policy. These would include bills  
25 proposed in Congress that could affect the Vermont Yankee ISFSI and its dry casks. The Panel  
26 consensus was in favor of this.

27  
28 Lissa Weinmann suggested that the national repository proposed for Yucca Mountain, Nevada  
29 as well as interim storage locations should be reconsidered. After decades of Yucca Mountain  
30 talk and considering potential interim storage costs, perhaps other options should be  
31 considered. Chris Campany noted that any Panelist can draft an advisory opinion on topics such  
32 as these for Panel consideration. Panelist Bob Leach offered to review draft advisory opinions  
33 on these subjects.

34  
35 Lissa Weinmann also noted that a letter supporting Interim storage was signed by the previous  
36 Panel Chair, but was not discussed by Panel and may not have been fully understood when it  
37 was signed. Politics and population have changed since Yucca Mountain was first proposed in  
38 the 1980s. There is currently too much waste for Yucca Mountain to hold. Chris Campany  
39 noted that Windham Regional Committee (WRC) has suggested a dialogue between potential  
40 host communities meant to receive nuclear waste and host communities with plants being  
41 decommissioned. Perhaps Panel should consider supporting the WRC's position? Chris  
42 committed to provide WRC's position paper on this topic to the Panel.

1 Regarding IBEW representation on the Panel, Corey Daniels reported that he did reach out to  
2 the IBEW local. IBEW has indicated that it is willing to allow Corey to represent it on NDCAP.  
3 IBEW is also open to eliminating its position.  
4

5 Chris Campany stated that these points would be fleshed out at future Issues Committee  
6 meetings, which the general public are welcome to attend.  
7

#### 8 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: On Role and Composition of NDCAP Going Forward**

9 Ann Darling, of Easthampton, MA (formerly of Brattleboro), requested that the Vermont Public  
10 Service Department “nudge” the Massachusetts Governor to appoint a new panelist to  
11 represent Massachusetts, as specified in the Vermont legislation establishing the Panel. Darling  
12 also stated that the community has a responsibility to know where the VT Yankee’s  
13 decommissioning waste is going and how it will affect the country and the world.  
14

15 Public Service Commissioner June Tierney agreed to discuss the appointment of a  
16 Massachusetts panel member after the meeting.  
17

#### 18 **Panel Participation in Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act Requirements**

19 Corey Daniels and Chris Campany reported that the April 22 Issues Committee meeting also  
20 discussed the recently enacted Federal Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act  
21 (NEIMA). Part of NEIMA requires the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to prepare a  
22 Congressional Report on “best practices” for facilitating public involvement in active reactor  
23 decommissioning via panels such as NDCAP. The NRC will host at least 10 public meetings  
24 (throughout the US) this summer to gather information for this report. Preferred meeting  
25 locales are near actively decommissioning plants or in communities with established public  
26 engagement panels. The Windham Regional Commission and the Vermont Public Service  
27 Department have each requested that one of these meetings be held within the Vermont  
28 Yankee vicinity.  
29

30 Chris Campany asked that NDCAP consider drafting a NEIMA reply document outlining the  
31 function and scope of the Panel for the NRC to use in preparing its best practices report to  
32 Congress. To facilitate this Chris asked State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie to begin  
33 compiling a report outlining the formation of NDCAP and its activities to date. Tony  
34 commented that the initial draft currently describes the legislation that established the Panel  
35 and outlines its duties. It also includes a general summary of the topics covered at NDCAP  
36 meetings. This draft will be available to the Panelists in the near future, but before doing so,  
37 Tony would like to expand descriptions on several specific meeting topics discussed by the  
38 Panel.  
39

40 Chris Campany motioned, with June Tierney seconding, to have the Panel support the Public  
41 Service Department drafted summary of NDCAP history and actions to date in response to  
42 NEIMA. The motion was approved by yeas or nays with no nays or abstentions heard.  
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44

1   **Summary of First Nuclear Decommissioning Collaborative Meeting**

2   Chris Campany, Panel Chair gave a verbal overview of the inaugural meeting the Nuclear  
3   Decommissioning Collaborative, held in Washington DC in April. The meeting included several  
4   federal agencies, host communities and industry experts. The goal was to see what existing  
5   governmental programs could be used to address economic issues stemming from reactor  
6   decommissioning. (The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was present, even though they  
7   oversee the radiological health and safety, and therefore have little funding to offer.) The  
8   meeting did not address other impacts such as carbon footprint changes, etc., or whether host  
9   communities should be compensated for storing spent nuclear fuel at former power plant sites.  
10   Essentially, the meeting considered whether federal planning money should go to communities  
11   in which nuclear power plants are closing.

12  
13   **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS TO THE PANEL**

14   Josh Unruh, Select Board Chair for the Town of Vernon, expressed concern that the Town of  
15   Vernon was not represented at the Nuclear Decommissioning Collaborative meeting. He  
16   requested that both he and the Town of Vernon remain informed of future meetings. Chris  
17   Campany explained that the Collaborative's meeting was open to the public and agreed to  
18   make sure this would be better advertised in the future.

19  
20   **SCHEDULING NEXT MEETING**

21   It was suggested that the next meeting take place in September, with the Panel's fourth (and  
22   last required) meeting of the year being scheduled in November (preferably before  
23   Thanksgiving). Chris Campany noted that Panel elections (for Chair and Vice-Chair) need to be  
24   held at the September meeting and that he agreed to be Panel Chair for one year. The  
25   November meeting would focus on the Panel's 2019 Annual Report and recommended changes  
26   to the Panel's mission and composition. Tony Leshinskie noted that scheduling a meeting  
27   location in September might have to wait until after the school year starts in early September.  
28   Tony will poll Panelists to determine several likely meeting dates in September and November.

29  
30   **WRAP-UP AND ADJOURN**

31   Concern was raised as to whether the Panel would have enough time to address the possible  
32   changes for NDCAP identified so far as well as provide the NEIMA feedback agreed upon this  
33   evening. Chris Campany noted that quite a bit of work could be done by the Issues Committee  
34   between NDCAP meetings. Additional meetings of the full Panel could be scheduled as  
35   necessary.

36  
37   **Next meeting:** September 2019. The exact date and meeting location are yet to be  
38   determined.

39  
40   **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 19:35.**